



# Fact Sheet

Garbage scavenging, Cambodia. © David Rengel/AnHua

## The Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking

The Bureau of International Labor Affairs' (ILAB) Office of Child Labor, Forced Labor, and Human Trafficking (OCFT) was established in 1993. OCFT works to reduce the prevalence of the worst forms of child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking worldwide through research, policy engagement, and technical cooperation grants.

### Research and Reporting

- OCFT's reports are carried out under Congressional mandate and Presidential directives. These include the Trade and Development Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-200), Executive Order 13126, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005 (P.L. 109-164), and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-246) ("Farm Bill").
- OCFT reports inform policymakers, consumers, and business, labor, and advocacy groups on the incidence and nature of child and forced labor and efforts underway to address these problems.
- OCFT identifies goods that may have been produced by child or forced labor to raise public awareness and encourage actions to improve the conditions under which goods we consume are produced.
- In 2012, OCFT released "Reducing Child Labor and Forced Labor: A Toolkit for Responsible Businesses," a free, comprehensive online resource specifically targeted to assist companies in combating these labor abuses in their supply chains. The Toolkit can be accessed at: <http://www.dol.gov/childlaborbusiness toolkit>.

The International Labor Organization (ILO) estimates that 168 million children are engaged in child labor, of which about 85 million participate in hazardous labor that by its nature can have adverse effects on their safety, health, and moral development.

The ILO has produced new global estimates placing the number of people trapped in forced labor at 21 million, including 6 million children in forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation.

The worst forms of child labor include slavery or practices similar to slavery; the trafficking of children; the use of children in armed conflict; prostitution and pornography; the use of children for illicit activities, particularly drug production and trafficking; and hazardous work.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- Through research grants and contracts on a wide variety of topics, OCFT supports an expanding global knowledge base on child labor and forced labor. This research is helping to fill a longstanding lack of reliable information on the extent of child labor and forced labor worldwide.

## Policy and Strategic Engagement

- OCFT assists in the development and implementation of U.S. government policy on international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking issues. OCFT also engages strategically with governments, business, labor, and civil society groups to support implementation of sustainable models to reduce exploitative labor practices.
- OCFT supports social protection programs that aim to alleviate and mitigate the economic vulnerabilities in nations and communities that can leave families trapped in poverty and consequently, children at risk of engaging in exploitative labor.

## Technical Cooperation

- OCFT funds projects that use an integrated approach that includes increasing access to education for children and supporting sustainable livelihood opportunities for adults to help families overcome dependence on their children's labor to meet basic needs.
- OCFT projects focus on geographic areas and sectors with a high incidence of child labor, such as

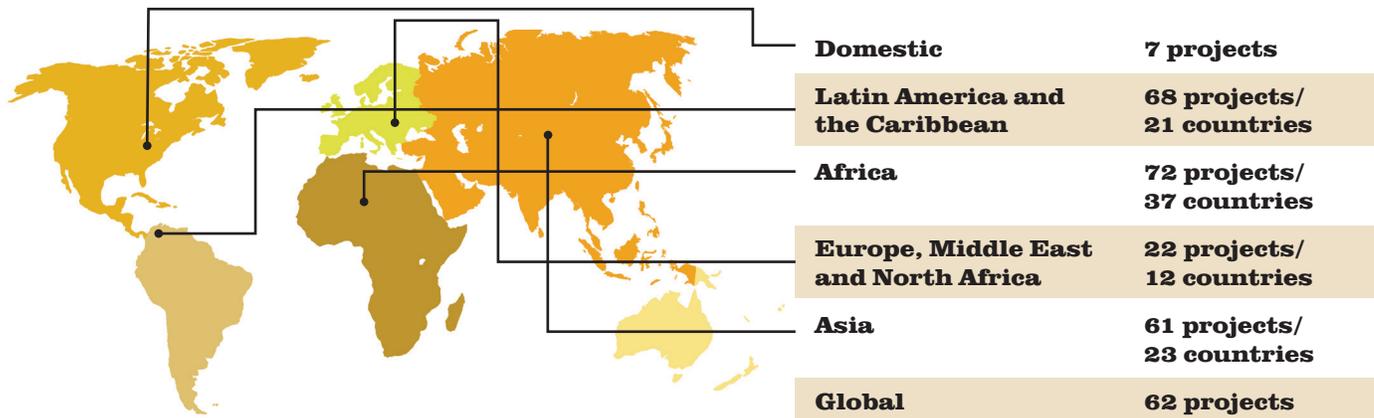
- OCFT projects work with governments to develop and implement specific policies and plans to combat child labor and forced labor, such as national plans of action on child labor and policies to protect children working in specific sectors. OCFT projects also integrate child labor issues into broader social protection programs.

## Our Accomplishments

- Since 1995, ILAB has funded more than 290 projects to combat child labor in over 90 countries and worked with more than 70 organizations. ILAB projects provide direct services to children and their families and help build national and local capacity to address child labor. As a result of these efforts, close to **2 million children have been provided education and vocational training services and vulnerable families have received livelihood support** to reduce their reliance on child labor.
- ILAB projects have also played a major role in building capacity in over 75 countries at the national, district, and community level, including by **training labor inspectors and law enforcement officials on child labor law enforcement; developing community-based, child labor monitoring**

## AT A GLANCE

### 20 Years of USDOL-Funded Child Labor Technical Cooperation Projects



commercial agriculture, mining, and small-scale manufacturing, and worst forms of child labor such as forced labor, trafficking, and commercial sexual exploitation.

- OCFT projects train labor inspectors and law enforcement officials on child labor law enforcement, and help develop community-based, child labor monitoring and enforcement efforts in the supply chains of key national sectors.
- OCFT projects work to strengthen the enforcement of workers' rights, including freedom of association, acceptable conditions of work, and occupational safety and health.

**systems; and working with governments to develop and implement specific policies and plans to combat child labor and forced labor.**

- OCFT has **increased the knowledge base on child labor and forced labor** through its research and publication of over 35 major reports. These range from country-specific reports on child labor laws and regulations to thematic reports on topics such as children in armed conflict and the impact of consumer labeling on child labor. OCFT has also funded extramural research on child labor and forced labor through academic and independent research organizations. OCFT reports are available on DOL's Web site at <http://www.dol.gov/ilab/reports/child-labor/>.